



Fort Detrick and National Interagency Confederation for Biological Research (NICBR)

Frederick County Public Schools

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The Importance of Partnering With Schools

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“Across the nation, from the smallest towns to the largest cities, the quality of virtually every community is defined by its public schools.”

The Council for Corporate Partnerships

FCPS Goals

1. Equip all students with the knowledge and skills to achieve their full potential
2. Provide a safe, inviting learning climate
3. Attract and retain highly qualified, effective employees
4. Engage all community sectors in education
5. Advocate for adequate resources and manage them accountably

Why Community Involvement?

- When schools and communities work together, both are strengthened in synergistic ways and make gains that outpace what either entity could accomplish on its own:
 - Families access community resources more easily;
 - Businesses connect education programs with the realities of the workplace;
 - Seniors contribute wisdom and gain a greater sense of purpose; and ultimately,
 - Students serve and learn beyond their school environment.
- The best partnerships are mutually beneficial and structured to connect individuals, not just institutions or groups. This connection enables the power of community partnerships to be unleashed.

Harvard Family Research

Why Community Involvement?

- It has been estimated that 40–50 percent of what a child learns occurs in school and the remaining 50-60 percent comes from the family and community.
- *"Without close articulation of and involvement with the family and larger community, schools will ultimately fail"*
(Partnership for Learning 12996, p. 14).

Are there Partnerships?

How many and what?

- Currently, there are 150 formal business partnerships!
- These range from:
 - Internships
 - Sponsorships
 - Equipment Dispersal
 - Academic Incentives
 - Others

Work Based Experiences

- Cooperative work-study
 - Approximately 500
- Internships
 - Approximately 300
- Service Learning
 - Approximately 700



Work Based Experiences

Who Are the Students?

- More male than female
- Majority 12th Grade students
- Predominately in Human Services job fields
- All high schools represented



What Do Our Work Based Partners Say?

- **98.9%** of students met or exceeded minimum entry requirements at beginning of experience.
- **98.8%** of students met or exceeded minimum workplace readiness skills.
- **99.1%** of students met or exceeded minimum skills for success at time of employment.
- **99.2%** of students learned new job skills with average or less than average instruction.

Compiled by MSDE



Important Ingredients

- Improve student motivation
- Provide future direction for students
- Improve academic achievement
- Ability to resolve problems
- Communication and assignment of roles
- Quality of service



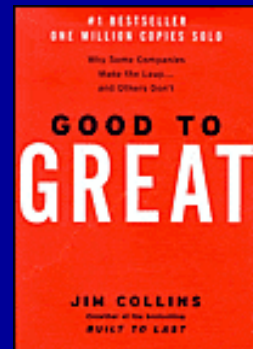
Guidelines for Partnership Development

- Clearly defined and mutually developed goals
- Be collaborative and benefit for both parties
- Aligned with mission and goals of school system
- Be embedded into the school program
- Have a management plan that defines roles
- Plan for sustainability
- Have a plan of evaluation
 - Short and long-term

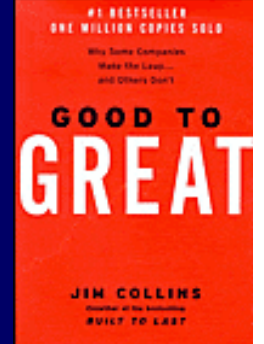


Evaluation

- For a social sector organization, performance must be assessed relative to mission, not financial returns. In the social sectors the critical questions is:
 - “How effectively do we deliver on our mission and make a distinctive impact, relative to our resources?”



Evaluation



- It doesn't really matter whether you can quantify your results. What matters is that you rigorously assemble evidence—quantitative or qualitative—to track your progress.
- If the evidence is primarily qualitative, think like a trial lawyer assembling the combined body of evidence.
- If the evidence is primarily quantitative, then think of yourself as a laboratory scientist assembling and assessing the data.



“All organizations are aligned to get the results they get.”

■ Arthur W. Jones

What will make the difference to meet today's challenges ?

- Our attitude
- Our commitment
- Our willingness to think and do things differently.



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Questions or Comments

*"Tailor schools to meet the needs of the school,
the community and the business."*

Source: Council for Corporate and School Partnerships